(3x210 MW) power stations in Tamil **Nadu** State.

(c) Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board (TNEB) have represented to the Ministry of Coal that Mettur Thermal Power Station should be allowed a linkage of 1 lakh tonnes per month from Singareni collieries. Because of shortfall in production in Singareni mines due to law and order and other problems, alternative arrangements have been made to supply coal to Mettur TPS from other sources by rail cum sea route.

Alternate Fuel

1068. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 328 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st December, 1990 and state:

(a) the recommendations of the inter fuel substitution committee to find out alternative fuels; and

(b) the follow up action taken on those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The report of the Inter-fuel Substitution Committee has not been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Oil exploration in the Gulf of Mannar

1069. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are negotiating with Sri Lanka to finalise a contract for the joint oil exploration in the gulf of Mannar; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): 6a) **Yes, Sir.**

(b) Details are being worked out.

New Technology for Tidal Power Generation

1070. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking action to acquire new technologies developed for generation of power form tidal waves at cheap rates; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) No specific pro posal to acquire new technologies for generation of power from tidal waves at cheaper rates is under consideration of the Government at present. Investigations on Kachchh tidal pro ject are being carried out by Central Electricity Authority.

Oil exploration in Cauvery Basin

1071. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry has presented a memorandum to the Central Government recently requesting to tap the oil resources in the Cauvery basin;

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(c) whether the production of oil, from the Cauvery basin would lead to a foreign exchange saving?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) Oil production has already been started from the Cauvery basin. Till March 1991, 0.552 million tonnes of crude oil had been produced from this basin.